

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SY-05 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 DHA-02 EB-07 COME-00

TRSE-00 OC-05 CCO-00 CU-04 SCSE-00 SCA-01 USSS-00

FBIE-00 ACDA-10 A-01 /117 W
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R 011320Z MAR 76

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1225

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 099

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, XG, UK, EI

SUBJECT: LOYALIST VIOLENCE - MARCH COMES IN LIKE A LION

REF: BELFAST 97

1. PAST WEEKEND IN NORTHERN IRELAND MARKED BY WAVE OF VIOLENCE IN PROTESTANT AREAS PERPETRATED BY SYMPATHIZERS OR MEMBERS LOYALIST PARAMILITARY GROUPS PROTESTING OVER ISSUE OF PHASE-OUT SPECIAL CATEGORY STATUS (REFTEL). VIOLENCE GENERALLY NON-LETHAL, MOST CONCENTRATED IN BELFAST AND INTENDED PRIMARILY TO DISRUPT TRAFFIC AND COMMERCE. THERE ALSO CONSIDERABLE DISRUPTION IN LONDONDERRY. ALMOST 100 VEHICLES HIJACKED BETWEEN FRIDAY AFTERNOON AND MONDAY MORNING INCLUDING FIVE BUSES. MANY OF THESE VEHICLES BURNED AND USED TO BLOCK STREETS AND ROADS. THERE MORE THAN 145 HOAX TELEPHONE WARNINGS OF BOMBS AND 13 MAJOR FIRES. ONE MAN KIDNAPPED BY MEMBERS ULSTER
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FREEDOM FIGHTERS BUT LATER RELEASED UNHARMED. THERE 16 ARRESTS, MOSTLY OF TEEN-AGE MALES AND POLICE BELIEVE

YOUNGSTERS WERE INCITED ON ORDER ULSTER ARMY COUNCIL WITH INTENTION MOUNTING PROTEST ON BEHALF LOYALISTS BEFORE PROVISIONAL IRA CAN ORGANIZE DEMONSTRATIONS ON BEHALF REPUBLICANS. ULSTER VOLUNTEER FORCE HAS DENIED PARTICIPATION.

2. IN OTHER MORE LETHAL VIOLENCE THERE TWO DEATHS AND TWO CATHOLIC CHURCHES WERE TARGETS OF BOMB ATTACKS SUNDAY MORNING WHICH BEING INVESTIGATED AS SECTARIAN ATTACKS. THERE WILL BE REPRISALS. THERE ALSO SEVERAL SHOOTING INCIDENTS DIRECTED AGAINST SECURITY FORCES IN PROVINCE AND INDICATIONS THAT PROVISIONAL IRA UNITS RESUMING OPERATIONS SOUTH ARMAGH.

3. IN ACTION BELIEVED UNRELATED TO VIOLENCE BUT REFLECTING POLITICAL DISAGREEMENT WITH ULSTER DEFENSE ASSOCIATION (UDA), POLITICAL ADVISOR AND PRESS SPOKESMAN GLENN BARR HAS ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION TO RESIGN FROM UDA. DECISION FOLLOWS UDA DENIAL OF SUPPORT TO VANGUARD PARTY CALL FOR REFERENDUM ON VOLUNTARY COALITION. BARR WILL BE MISSED. NEVER A POLICY MAKER, HE WAS PERSONALLY INFLUENTIAL WITH UDA LEADERSHIP AND RESPECTED BY MOST GROUPS INCLUDING NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE.

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